



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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### UKRAINE

#### Family Planning Week Makes a Mark in Ukraine

Ukraine's Ministry of Health in conjunction with USAID's Together for Health (TfH) project conducted a series of Family Planning Week events from May 19-25 to commemorate International Family Day, which was celebrated on May 15. Activities focused on the project's seven pilot oblasts - Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Lviv, Odessa, Poltava, Vinnytsya and Volyn.



*Volunteers from the "Together for Health" NGO-grantee "Lutsk Volunteers Club" at an event in Lutsk.*

A new film, "Together Let's Plan our Family," produced especially for the occasion by TfH, was a centerpiece of Family Planning Week. The documentary, which mixes entertainment and education, follows four couples facing choices about family planning in different life situations. The video was broadcast into homes on local TV, displayed on large plasma screens in the central squares of cities, and shown at educational events for students at universities. Throughout the week a shorter version was screened at movie theatres prior to the featured film. TfH educators and volunteers from Centers of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth supported the video with discussion groups and educational events.

Other activities in the oblasts included: theatre performances on family planning themes, contests, events for youth, and educational sessions for people of all ages and walks of life. Oblast Health Departments held press conferences, special programs aired on oblast TV and radio, and articles appeared in newspapers. A special edition of Tobi magazine, distributed to university students free of charge around the country, featured an article about family planning and reproductive health, which was submitted by the well known pop singers, Vitaly Kozlovsky, Mika Newton and Arina Domski.

#### USAID Capital Markets Project Supports Forum on Non-State Pension Provision Issues

On June 6, the State Commission for Regulation of Financial Services Markets of Ukraine, with support from the USAID Capital Markets Project, held a Forum on Non-State Pension Provision Issues.



*FSR Chairman Valeriy Alyoshyn (right) is congratulated by Capital Markets Project COP Barry Pitts (left) after Friday's forum.*

The Forum was the first opportunity for a national discussion on the non-state pension fund (NPF) market and allowed non-state

pension fund stakeholders to voice their opinions on major issues facing the market and the best ways to resolve them.



*FSR Chairman Valeriy Alyoshyn speaks to participants about the current growth in non-state pension funds.*

According to participants, the most urgent issues needing to be addressed are: proper valuation of individual pension accounts; collaboration between state authorities and market participants; development of self-regulatory organizations for administrators, and publicizing and stimulating NPF among workers and employers, with the last item mentioned most frequently.

Speakers addressed the successes that have been attained and the remaining challenges. They gave constructive criticisms of draft changes to the NPF law, existing and proposed regulations and the work of the regulators. In his closing remarks, FSR Chairman Valeriy Alyoshyn assured participants that their concerns and proposed solutions were noted and would be acted on to help improve a system that continues to grow and is becoming financially stronger each year.

### **Finance and Economic Forum Discusses How to Improve Housing and Communal Services in Ukraine**

The third annual Finance and Economic Forum organized by the Institute for Budgetary and Socio-Economic Research (IBSER) took place in Kyiv on June 6 through a grant provided by the USAID-funded Municipal Budget Reform (MBR) Project. Because improvements in Housing and Communal Services (HCS) are

central to Ukraine's sustainable growth, the main goal of the Forum was to analyze the strategy for HCS infrastructure development and budgetary support in this sector in 2009-2010.

Members of the Verkhovna Rada, top officials of the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance as well as representatives of USAID, academic institutions, the international community, and journalists attended the Forum.

Forum participants discussed financial mechanisms for stimulating HCS infrastructure development in the context of HCS reform in 2009-2010; budgetary support as an element in the implementation of public-private partnerships in HCS; state support for HCS infrastructure development in view of WTO requirements; development of a legislative framework for HCS under the conditions of budgetary reform; and raising the efficiency of budgetary support provided to HCS at the local level.



*VR deputies, top officials from the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services (HCS) and the Ministry of Finance, representatives of USAID and other donors, as well as NGO leaders discuss the strategy for HCS infrastructure development and its budgetary support for 2009 - 2010.*

### **TIBA Trainings Help State Authorities Develop Better Regulations**

USAID's Trade, Investment and Business Acceleration project held a training on June 4-5 for 95 local officials from Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, and Kherson Oblast. This was the last of a series of regional trainings organized jointly with the State Committee on Regulatory Policy and Entrepreneurship (SCRPE) to more

effectively implement the law “On the General Principles of State Regulatory Policy in the Sphere of Economic Activity” (RPL) and develop better Regulatory Impact Analyses and Evaluations. During the last few months these trainings have provided a better understanding of how to implement effective regulatory policy to more than 900 regional officials from all oblasts of Ukraine and nearly 400 central government representatives.

The adoption of RPL has created new opportunities for regulatory authorities in creating an enabling business environment. Guided by the RPL, state regulatory authorities are able to weigh all pros and cons and develop better solutions for certain problems. This is made possible by the requirement of the RPL that a Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) must be drafted for each regulation. In addition, the RPL provides for a Regulatory Impact Evaluation (RIE), a mechanism of tracking the effectiveness of regulations.

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## M O L D O V A

### **New Cisco Networking Academy Launched in Moldova with USAID Support**

A new Local Cisco Academy was launched at the A. Diordita College of Finance and Banking in Chisinau on May 27, with support from the USAID Competitiveness Enhancement and Enterprise Development (CEED) project. The academy will give students an opportunity to enroll in the Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA) course through their school. Worldwide about 100,000 students in more than 130 countries are enrolled in Cisco courses offered through a network of roughly 8,000 Cisco academies.

CCNA is the first level of training in Cisco networking technologies. The course is Internet-

based and students who complete it may take an exam to obtain an internationally recognized CCNA certificate – credentials highly prized by many perspective employers. Students who wish to acquire more advanced networking skills may enroll in advanced Cisco training through Cisco's Regional Academy in Moldova, DNT Association.

CEED began to cooperate with Cisco after a study showed that networking skills were in short supply in Moldova. Nearly 70 percent of the interviewed managers indicated networking as an essential and highly demanded skill needed by IT companies, and 50 percent believed that schools need to improve their curriculum in this area.



*Students from the College of Finance and Banking participating in the official launch event on May 27.*

In response, CEED began sponsoring a training of trainers program, in partnership with DNT Association, for nine new CCNA instructors from three institutions that plan to open Local Cisco Academies: the College of Finance and Banking, the Free International University of Moldova (ULIM), and the Technical University of Moldova. The college was the first to officially open its academy. The two universities will open their academies in the fall to coincide with the new academic year.

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